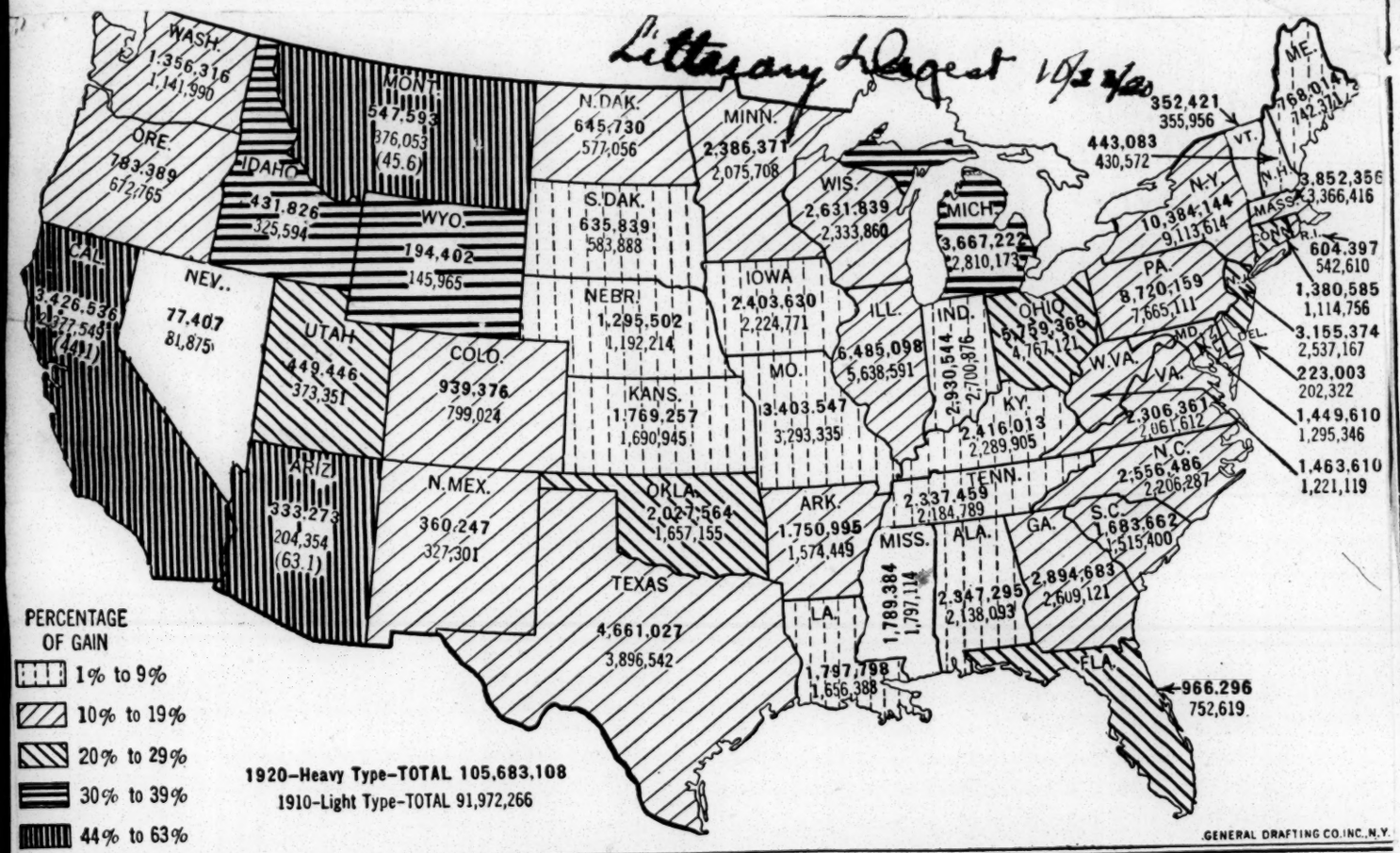


HOW THE GAIN IN POPULATION IS DISTRIBUTED.

In extreme contrast to California, Montana, and Arizona, with their gains of 44.1, 45.6, and 63.1 per cent. respectively, are the three widely separated States of Nevada, Vermont, and Mississippi (shown white on the map), with decreases of 5.5, 1, and .4 per cent.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.
—Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle.

The letter is but a restatement of the editorial sermons on our farming conditions published in The Advertiser for the past several years; the alarming truths which we have sought to bring to the notice of our people are but a little more compactly and succinctly stated. The readers of The Advertiser have known in general of these changed conditions; Mr. Gist, basing his information upon the official report of the Census Bureau, makes them direct and specific.

We are, of course, going to do something to replace what we have lost, to rebuild where our section has decayed. To fail to do so would reflect upon us as a capable, intelligent and self-reliant people. We are not going to permit these losses to continue; we are going to hand Montgomery county to the next generation, a better and richer county than we found it.

What are we going to do about it? First, we are going to put over that hundred thousand dollar campaign, in advertising the county to farmers in other sections and other States. At present that is the only practical method we have evolved for restocking our farms with people, and for restoring the production of Montgomery county to normal. We are going to raise that money and we are going to get the farmers.

This is our first task. There will be other jobs waiting for us when we have accomplished this task, and we are going to take up each job as we come to it.

**imported 2,005 passenger cars and 1,526 commercial automobiles. Brazil**

Population—1920

Lit Digest - 10/23/20

## A CENSUS "THUNDERCLAP"

THIS COUNTRY IS "CITY-CRAZY," exclaims the Charleston (S. C.) *News and Courier*, as the 1920 Census announces that more than half our population—51.9 per cent.—are now city dwellers. The news is "a census thunderclap" to the Omaha *World-Herald*, "revealing a condition dreaded by sociologists and patriots. This will never do. It can't go on forever. We can not all live in town. The fact that 10 per cent. of the people of the United States live in its three largest cities; the fact that between 30 and 40 per cent. live in the sixty-eight largest cities; the fact that over half the land farmed in Kansas is farmed by tenants—all these are but attending and allied features of the change in American life." The rural population has "practically stood still; where there were 100 country folk in 1910 there are now 103," notes the Milwaukee *Leader*, which speaks sarcastically of the city lure: "Population and dollars are the chief yard-sticks with which the ordinary business jackass measures what he calls 'progress.' Whether the population is a happy population or a miserable one is, of course, of no consequence. There isn't a commercial club in a single 'jerk-water' town in the whole United States that isn't trying to increase the local population. So long as this thing lasts, we'll grow more and more top-heavy; and we all know where things top-heavy come to land. The census shows the 'progress' we are making." Indeed, fearsome comment on the drift to the cities exprest in the daily press, which is, of course, a city press, quite overshadows boasting of our increased population, shown by the census to be 105,683,108 in the continental United States. The corresponding total in 1910 was 91,972,266 and in 1900, 75,994,575. The increase of population in the last decade is 13,710,842, more than in any other except the previous one, which showed an increase of 15,977,691. But the percentage of increase in 1920 falls to 14.9 compared to 21 for the previous decade, and so stands as the smallest percentage of increase recorded by any ten-year period. It is in this falling percentage rather than the large increase in the population that head-lines and editorials find the "decline" from expectations. They take their cue from the published report of the Director of the Census Bureau, who says, "the large falling off in the rate of growth for the country as a whole is due mainly to an almost complete cessation of immigration for more than five years preceding the taking of the census in January last and in some degree also to an epidemic of influenza, and to the casualties resulting from the world-war." The greatly accentuated trend toward the city in the last ten years, until for the first time the urban exceeds the rural population, is thus detailed:

"Of the 105,683,108 persons enumerated in the fourteenth census, preliminary tabulations show that 54,816,209, or 51.9 per cent., are living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more, and 50,866,899, or 48.1 per cent., in rural territory.

"The increase since 1910 in the population as a whole was 14.9 per cent., but during the decade there has been an increase in that portion of the population living in urban territory of 12,192,826, or 28.6 per cent., and in that portion living in rural territory of 1,518,016, or only 3.1 per cent.; and if the comparison is extended to cover the two classes of rural territory, it appears that that portion living in incorporated places of less than 2,500 inhabitants show an increase of 1,745,371, or 21.5 per cent., whereas that portion living in purely country districts shows an actual decrease of 227,355, or six-tenths of 1 per cent."

Our "urban population," as above defined by the Census Bureau, is about 4,000,000 more than the rural, while in 1910 the rural was about 7,000,000 more than the urban. Other calculations show the largest rate of increase in cities of 10,000 to 50,000; nearly the same rate for cities exceeding 50,000, the whole urban population increasing more than seven times as fast as the rural. "The larger the city, the larger its growth, apparently," observes the Dallas *News:*

"The larger cities have recruited from the smaller ones, as well as from the farms, while, in each descending rank, the cities and towns have taken from those next below them as well as from the countryside. Thus the process of integration. It is emphasized by comparisons with the figures of the preceding census, for these show a nearly even rate of growth for the three classes of urban communities. The villages are drying up, the smaller towns are but barely maintaining their size, while the cities are expanding, and somewhat in the ratio of their sizes."

To the Eastern States, says the New York *World*, with their earlier rise to an industrial empire, the condition presents no new problem of the growth of cities at the expense of the country. "What the census reports prove is that a problem heretofore mainly sectional has taken on a national aspect and bearing. The United States is becoming overindustrialized. It has drawn disproportionately upon the land in the excessive expansion of trade and manufactures. Its mills and factories are robbing the farms and bringing nearer the prospect of a precarious food supply." *The New England Homestead* pointedly remarks, "When cities are boasting of their increasing population they want to remember much of this gain comes from the farms, and that farm folk who are in the cities are not producing food for city folk to eat." And the Chicago *News* says:

"The industrialization of this country is approaching that dangerous stage where the task of provisioning the people suggests forcible expansion beyond political boundaries and tariff walls into new fields of raw products. Whether we indeed drift into that dark necessity depends chiefly on our own social intelligence and the wisdom of our statesmanship. The pull toward the city, the disproportionate industrialization of the people that creates a volume of consumption out of balance with the production of raw materials, results in an intricate and delicate economic fabric and in a seriously strained national mechanism with increased centralization of government.

"The drift to the cities is not because the country is crowded. It is due to an unintelligent rural policy. The evil is largely in the instability and the meagerness of farm-profits."

*The Nebraska Farmer* finds rural dwellers questioning the accuracy of either the returns of this or the previous census in their communities on which comparisons are based, but is certain that the situation will furnish a large amount of theorizing on the evil effects of the townward movement. We read:

"It was such a condition ten years ago that stimulated sociologists to start the 'back to the land' movement. The present census figures indicate that this movement was not very general. Neither is it likely to be during the next ten years, for when a country reaches the point the United States has reached, the urban population is certain to increase more rapidly than the rural. We see no possible chance of its being otherwise."

But "there is no need to be alarmed," in the opinion of the Philadelphia *Evening Public Ledger*. The growth of the cities is a phase of evolution. The townward tendency is operating in every civilized country. It is one of the incidents of the development of civilization and the multiplying of the wants of the people. *The Ledger* says a census "town" of 2,500 people is essentially rural. Many of its inhabitants are directly dependent on the soil, have gardens, cows, chickens, etc. Further, there are many States that have more than the 52 per cent. census average of urban population, like Pennsylvania and New York, and yet have farm-land and farmers enough to produce plenty of food, as well as other agricultural products to sell beyond State borders—

"An intelligent system of cooperative marketing will remove nine-tenths of the uncertainty which now worries the American farmer, and when that uncertainty disappears there will be no industry under the sun in which the returns are so sure, the profits so generous, and the life so independent. Then the country boy who goes to the city will go because there is no room for him on the farm.

"We need not worry overmuch about the growth of urban population. It would be as useless to worry about the growth of a child from youth to maturity."

The war is considered the largest probable factor in the trek to cities by many

papers, including the Brooklyn *Citizen*, which says that it is highly important to observe that "while the proportion of city to rural population is now greater than ever before, there has been no actual decrease in the number of our rural inhabitants. It is, in other words, not that the country has been losing, but that the city has been gaining."

In only three States—Mississippi, Nevada, and Vermont—does the census show decreases in population. For Mississippi the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* explains:

"Until a few years ago Mississippi was making normal growth in population and development. Then came the great trek of the negroes northward. Thousands of her black citizens heeded the call of 'labor agents' and others, and joined the march. It will be found, we think, that the showing of net loss for the ten-year period is due entirely to the departure of the negroes."

### THE FARM CENSUS.

In ten years the numberof farms in Alabama has decreased by 2.6 per cent., announces the census bureau. Only one other Southern State, Mississippi, showed a decline, others reporting an increase, Louisiana showing up especially well, as its increase amounts to 12.4. The relative increase for the whole United States was notably smaller than that reported in 1910. The increase was 44.9 per cent. lower than ten years ago, or only 1.5.

Now, under ideal conditions of agriculture, a decrease in the mere number of farms in cultivation should not concern anyone. If increased production per farm were as great as it might have been under generally advanced methods of agriculture there would be little if anything to deplore in the condition which the census report reveals. But the informed man knows that improvement in method has not kept pace with the decline in the number of farm operatives, notwithstanding we are doing better farming on the whole than we ever did before in this country. There are countless farms maintained in a high state of cultivation, and they are required to produce a variety of stuff. But there are many thousands more of which this cannot be said.

The decline in the number of farms in cultivation in Alabama and in many other States of the Union is merely reported, not explained, by the census bureau, other than the suggestion of officials that the "abnormal migration of country folk to cities and the discovery of new oil deposits" were the principal factors. The discovery of new oil deposits probably was a negligible factor—certainly in Alabama and Mississippi oil deposits have closed very few farms.

There is no mystery about it in Alabama and Mississippi. So many people, for one reason or another, have grown tired of the farm and decided to try their fortunes in the cities that we haven't as many farm directors left in the country as we had ten years ago. And there is our chief problem in Alabama and the South, as to which all are agreed: Too many farmers are quitting their trade to work at something else. And they are quitting it because farming hasn't compensated them for the uncertainties of nature and markets, and because larger cash rewards for the day's effort seemed to await them at the other end of the railroad line.

It is a condition which menaces the well-being of the American people. If our rural industries are not maintained on a healthy, prosperous basis; if our rural people are unable to find contentment on the farms and in consequence our cities become overcrowded with people as already they are fast becoming, our National life must suffer immeasurably. If the present condition should go on unchecked or unmodified for a few more generations, it would ruin the country.

## CITIES OUTGROW RURAL DISTRICTS

Atlanta Constitution 10-1-20

### Census Bureau Figures Disclose Great Drift of Population From Country in Last Decade.

Washington, September 30.—Cities are increasing in population seven and a half times as fast as the rural districts, the census bureau disclosed tonight in a compilation of figures covering approximately 85 per cent of the new census. The figures indicated taat the completde census would show the majority of the population to be city dwellers.

For the last ten years rural growth was only one-third as great as it was in the previous decade, but the cities almost maintained their rate of growth, getting five new inhabitans from 1910 to 1920 for each six added during the preceding ten years. All population centers, even the small country hamlets and towns, showed a greater proportionate increase than the purely rural districts. The greatest increases, however, were by cities of 10,000 or more inhabitants.

**Reason for Urban Growth.**

While the bureau attempts no explanation of the reasons for the increasing migration to the cities each year during the last decade, presumably higher wages, shorter working day and home conveniences attracted the rural population, especially during the war, when wages in big industrial centers went up rapidly.

Although showing a check in the rate of population growth for the country as a whole, the bureau's figures indicate that the complete returns would p lace the total number of inhabitants of the continental United States at approximately 105,768,100, a gain of 13,795,840, or 15 per cent.

Cities will absorb practically all of this increase, it being estimated that 12,172,800 would reside in towns of 2,500 or more inhabitants while 1,623,040 would be added to the farms and the small hamlets. For the countryside itself, the increase would be approximately a million and a quarter.

Such a movement of the people will place the urban population at approximately 54,796,100, and the rural population at 50,972,000. In 1910, the rural population outstripped that of the cities by almost seven million people, there being 49,348,883 in the country, and 42,623,383 in the cities.

"For several censuses," said the bureau announcement, "the country has not been growing as rapidly as the city, but the diffrence appears to be greater at this census than ever befoe."

**How Cities Have Grown.**

The urban population, the announcement addded, increased at a rate of 25.2 per cent, while that of the rural districts, including the villages or towns under 2,500 population, was 3.4 per cent. For the strictly farm territory, the rate was 3.2 per cent, and that of the villages was 4.7 per cent.

Among the urban centers, cities exceeding 50,000 increased at 26.4 per cent, those of 10,000 to 50,000, at 26.7 per cent, and those of 2,500 to 10,000, at 18.8 per cent. From 1900 to 1910, the percentage rates of increases for these three classifications of cities were 35.6, 33.7 and 27.8, respectively.

Up to ten days ago, the announcement said the count of population estimated as 85 per cent complete, had reached 92,098,281. For purposes of comparison between city and country, the bureau reduced the figure to 90,586,742, by eliminating the population of the insular possessions, and places in the United States.

Of this total populatino, that classified as urban was reported as 52,494,749, the cities over 50,000 population having 32,533,038 inhabitants, those of 10,000 to 50,000, having 11,771,224, and those of 2,500 to 10,000 having 8,190,487. The rural population was 32,025,961, in the country districts, and 6,066,032 in villages under 2,500 in population.

# Negro Population Of City Decreased In Ten Years

LYNCHBURG VA NEWS
JUNE 20, 1920

### Accounts in Part For Small Gain in Total Population During The Last Decade—Demand For Recount By Federal Government Or That Failing For City Census Grows. Many Being Dissatisfied

A decrease in the negro population of Lynchburg is believed accountable in some measure for the small growth in Lynchburg's population during the last decade, as shown in the figures of the United States census bureau. While the detailed figures will not be known for several months, according to a dispatch received yesterday from the Washington correspondent of The News, the school census taken early this month indicated a reduction of 800 or more in the number of negroes in the city.

The school population of the city, according to the school census just taken, is 4.7 per cent of the total population as shown by the federal census. As there are 2,121 negroes of school age in Lynchburg, the total number of negroes should be approximately four times that figure. In other words, 2,121 is 24.7 per cent of the total negro population, which on this basis is 8,600, as against 9,466 in 1910, a decrease of 866.

That many negroes have left Lynchburg during the last ten years was already known, the calculations given above indicating the approximate numbers.

The value of these figures is indicated by the fact that calculations based upon them by The News on June 6 indicated a population for Lynchburg of between 31,000 and 32,000, whereas the census figures, believed to be slightly inaccurate, show the population to be nearly 30,000.

Many Lynchburgers, however, even when confronted with the probability that the small increase is due in part to the decrease in the negro population and admittedly in part to the growth of the suburbs at the expense of the city proper and though consoled somewhat by the further fact of rapid development in business and industries, are not satisfied with the enumeration taken by the bureau of the census. They believe the city has more than 29,956 persons within its confines and do not hesitate to say so and to give strong reasons to support their opinion. The chamber of commerce has advocated a recount by the city and chamber, working in cooperation, and yesterday Mayor Jester urged a city census if the federal government will not give favorable consideration to a request for a recount. Commissioner of the Revenue D. L. Taylor suggested an unofficial census by the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs and City Engineer C. L. DeMott proposed that use be made of the books of the water department in taking a city census. It would be possible, Mr. DeMott said, to get from the books of the department a list of all houses.

Another fact quoted as evidence that the city has grown more rapidly than indicated by the count of the census enumerators is found in the records of the city health board, which show that from January 1, 1919, to January 1, 1920, births exceeded deaths by 1,631, nearly four times the population increase shown by the census report, and this in spite of the fact that while all the deaths were reported, many births are not listed because of failure of physician or nurse to report to the health department. Certainly all these 1,631 persons have not left the city and certainly somebody moved to Lynchburg during the last decade, City Health Officer Perrow contended.

Population – 1920

## THE POPULATION DRIFT.

### The Occupational Unbalance Presents Serious Questions.

Editor The Advertiser:

In your editorial of Sunday, discussing the decrease of population in Mississippi, you raise the question of the drift of population away from the farm, which is engaging the thought of so many people at the present time. That it is serious is beyond question; the remedy is the real point of careful study. Until we get the figures from the present census we will be unable to discuss the subject in its full measure of importance or to approach its solution with entire intelligence. In advance of that information it is well, however, to be thinking in general terms at least in the light of knowledge already available.

The drift of population along occupational lines for the entire country is shown in the following statement, which gives the percentage of all persons 10 years of age and over engaged in the general classes of occupations indicated:

| | 1910 | 1880 |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture and forestry... | 33.2 | 44.3 |
| Professional service ..... | 5.5 | 3.5 |
| Domestic and personal service | 9.9 | 19.6 |
| Trade and transportation... | 21.0 | 10.8 |
| Manufacturing & mechanical | 30.4 | 21.8 |

Two positive and outstanding facts at once impress even a casual glance at these figures. One is that from 1880 to 1910 the two general classes of occupation, agriculture and personal service, lost heavily in their relation to the whole, and the other that trade and transportation and manufacturing and mechanical occupations gained that loss. Agriculture lost nearly 25 per cent. of its ratio to the whole and personal service lost nearly 50 per cent. of its ratio; on the contrary trade and transportation gained in its ratio by nearly 100 per cent., while manufacturing and mechanical pursuits gained in their ratio nearly 40 per cent.

The equivalent data for Alabama are not immediately at hand, though the following comparative figures for 1910 and 1900 show the same trend as for the country as a whole:

| Alabama— | 1910 | 1900 |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture and forestry... | 67.1 | 68.7 |
| Professional service ..... | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| Domestic & personal service | 7.6 | 8.5 |
| Trade and transportation... | 9.0 | 8.7 |
| Manufacturing & mechanical | 13.7 | 12.3 |

That some measure of this trend is made in an increased disposition toward gainful occupation by all the people is shown in the following statement, which gives the percentage of all persons engaged in gainful occupations in the United States and in Alabama at the different census periods:

| | U. S. | Ala. |
|---|---|---|
| 1880 ..... | 47.3 | 57.9 |
| 1890 ..... | 49.2 | 56.1 |
| 1900 ..... | 50.2 | 58.5 |
| 1910 ..... | 53.3 | 64.7 |

It will at once be apparent that the increase in the proportion of persons engaging in remunerative employment of all kinds does not by considerable odds account for the shift in the character of occupations. The reason must be looked for elsewhere.

The greater increase in the demand for manufactured commodities might account for a part of the increased participation in that line of occupation; likewise an increased demand for transportation might account for a measure of increased demand for labor in that line. On the other hand, better methods of production may have added something to the efficiency of labor engaged in production. The falling off in the proportion of persons engaged in domestic and personal service may be due in large measure to the disposition of people to serve themselves in those lines of service. None of these reasons, however, are sufficient to explain the fact that the proportion of decrease in agricultural, domestic, and personal occupations is almost identical with the proportion of increase in trade, transportation, manufacturing and mechanical employment. Statistical data may not be found to prove it, but common knowledge points positively to the matter of remuneration as the explanation for the direct and compensating change in the ratios discovered in the statement presented.

### The Returns for Labor.

It may be taken, then, as conclusive that the falling off in the returns for labor in agriculture and the corresponding increase in the returns for labor in the other lines in the main embrace the reasons for the reversed tendency. What has brought about the decrease on the one hand and the increase on the other is the real question which is engaging public attention, and which must be settled before any remedy may be applied. An exhaustive discussion of this question would fill a book, and a newspaper column would only hold a presentation of the premises.

Assuming that money return is the controlling factor, we are confronted with the strong probability that in the near future economic law will adjust the relations. If the present census shows a continuation of the trend which has been in progress since 1880, and it almost certainly will, then the time has about arrived when 30 per cent. of the population can not produce enough for the needs of the other 70; when one out of every five persons can not keep employed in moving and distributing the production of the other four; when one person may not be able to live on the profits of manufacturing what another produces. In trade, transportation, mining, and manufacturing it has already become necessary to curtail the output of labor in order to furnish employment to these who continue to engage therein; this fact, as much as anything, has engaged the attention of labor organizations, and is the cause of a large part of the turmoil consequent upon their activities. As an illustration of what is meant, in 1890 it took 55 persons employed in selling goods to wait upon each 1,000 persons employed in all occupations; in 1910 the number required had risen to 80. In 1890 it required 17 persons to perform the mining necessary for each 1,000 occupied persons, while in 1910 it required 25 persons for the same work. To what figure this has risen in 1920 we hate to be informed.

### Urban Increases.

Preliminary population returns for the present census have been received from 40 counties in Alabama. In 9 of these, located in the black belt, the total population has decreased from ten years ago 14 per cent. In 20 white counties where agriculture is practically the sole primary industry the total population has increased 6 per cent. In 11 counties where other industries are prominent, the total population has increased 18 per cent. In the 9 black belt counties the rural population has decreased 16 per cent.; in the 20 white farming counties it has increased 2 per cent., and in the 11 industrial counties it has increased 14 per cent. In the 9 black belt counties the urban population has increased 24 per cent.; in the 20 white farming counties it has increased 34 per cent., and in the 11 industrial counties it has increased 27 per cent. In the 29 counties so far reported, in which agriculture is the sole primary industry, the total population has increased only one-half of one per cent.; the rural population has decreased 5 per cent., and the urban population has increased 29 per cent. In the 40 counties as a whole the total population has increased 6 per cent., the rural population has decreased about 1 per cent., and the urban increased 28 per cent. We know now, therefore, that less people in the country must support more people in the towns; that in the black belt the country has lost more people than the towns have gained; that in the purely farming counties the country has lost just about what the towns have gained.

The conclusion is inevitable that for the immediate future unless the towns in every way possible help the farms to produce more per unit not only must prices of food and clothing go to higher levels but that some of the population of the towns must soon move out, either back to production on the farm or on to new fields of labor. If we were building industrially at the expense of the farms, we could buy abroad; but so long as the trend is as it appears in sections where the only production is from the farm the towns must soon come to the point of having nothing to buy with. No town can live off itself, especially those in farming sections. The towns and the farms must go up or down together; they can not go in opposite directions.

F. W. GIST.

## ALABAMA'S POPULATION

Anniston Star.

Alabama's increase in population, while not so great as had been anticipated, still is a substantial gain. Generally it was believed by well-informed persons that this State would be shown by the census figures to have more than the 2,347,295 reported by the census bureau. The gain of 9.8 per cent. appears a small one for a State that is known to have made remarkable progress in every line of industry. There can be but one explanation for the seemingly small increase—the exodus from the farms to the cities and the great number of negroes who have left South Alabama farms and North Alabama towns for the North. The larger cities of the State all have made substantial gains in population. The Birmingham district showed a large gain, as also did the Anniston district. In fact, all of the large towns increased substantially in population. There were, however, a number of smaller towns and a larger number of counties, mostly in South Alabama, in which the population decreased during the past ten years. In others the gain in population was small. This, probably, was due in a measure, to people moving from the farms and the small villages to neighboring cities, drawn thither by the promise of more money and less hard work in earning it, and the continued movement of negroes to northern industrial centers.

It is known that for months, more than two years in fact, negroes have been leaving country districts in Alabama for the North where they are promised higher wages and greater racial liberties. Of course, they do not get either, but once the negro moves to another State he is helpless to return. He does not find things as they were pictured to him, and he discovers too late that he cannot make enough money to get back to the South.

The exodus of negroes is making farm labor scarce in many Alabama districts, and, incidentally it is making the farmer's lot more difficult. After a time the Alabama negroes will find that the best place for them is in Alabama, and they will stop trying to find an Eldorado in the North. Many of those who left this State already have returned. Others are only waiting until they can save enough to bring them back, but in the meantime the belief continues to prevail among many that fancy wages and ideal living conditions are to be found in the North by the Southern negro, and they continue going there, leaving Southern homes where for years they were happy and contented.

The problem of checking the negro exodus equals that of finding a remedy for the movement of white rural residents to the cities and towns. A remedy for both is needed, but as yet none has been found. The trend from the country to the towns is not confined to Alabama, or to the South. It prevails all over the country and in some of the Eastern States there are hundreds of abandoned farms, those who formerly tilled them having moved to some city. In the Northwest thousands of farmers in the grain belt have sought homes in Canada, one report saying one hundred thousand American farmers had bought vast tracts of land in Alberta, on which they will locate in the spring. This latter exodus is a most surprising one, and appears entirely without a reasonable explanation. It does not hurt the South, but it does show that there must be discontent in the Northwest among rural residents, and it must be considered with the general question of farm abandonment.

Analyzed, the Alabama census figures show that the cities and towns of Alabama and the counties in the industrial sections of the State have grown substantially in population while the strictly rural sections and the smaller towns and villages have either lost in population or have made such small gains as to be inconsequential. It is not a gratifying showing for the State-at-large, and it should give Alabamians something to think over in a serious way. A remedy for the causes which have led to the small census showing must be found.

## WHAT WE HAVE LOST.

As the editorial leader in The Advertiser we publish this morning a letter from Mr. F. W. Gist, State Statistician; it is one of the most thought provoking documents to every man interested in the material welfare of the city of Montgomery, that we have published in many years.

We publish the letter for Mr. Gist, without comment at this time; to comment upon it might cloud or complicate the delivery of the message of this letter. Comment could not add to the force of the depressing

truths which Mr. Gist puts in his messag

The letter reads:

Editor The Advertiser:

The first definite report of the Census Bureau of Agriculture is just out, and shows the number of farms in the States and counties for 1920 and 1910. It appears that Alabama has suffered a net loss of 6,878 farms. The chief interest in this report to Montgomery, particularly with relation to the present effort to advertise this county with a view to rebuild its farming interests, is the fact that Montgomery county has lost 1,934 farms in the ten years, or nearly 30 per cent. of the number ten years ago. The eleven counties of which Montgomery is the trade center have lost 6,482 farms, or 13.3 per cent. of the number existing ten years ago It has already been pointed out that the rural population in these eleven counties lost 10.2 per cent. of its volume in the same period.

Of course this loss of farms in a section of heavy tenancy does not necessarily mean that the same proportion of lands have been wholly abandoned, but the recent figures confirm the former ones and mean, without any question, that Montgomery city has lost 10 per cent. of its business foundation. Some of the wise ones will answer this by pointing to the enormous business transacted in the past few seasons, and back up their claims by pointing with pride to the heavy increase in bank clearings. They forget that abnormally high prices, due in considerable proportion to the expansion of currency, has recently made up for more than the loss in number of customers, while for two years immediately prior to the height of this expansion the army camp added an average of more than 50 per cent. to the city population. Now they must remember that currency is being contracted, prices are falling, people are drawing in their expenditures by force of necessity, and the camp is gone.

Montgomery is now just going into its pre-war normal attitude from a business point of view. As before the war, she has nothing left but agriculture to support her business. With 18 per cent. of her own rural population and 10 per cent. of that of her trade territory gone in six years, she will not emerge from her few seasons of abnormal prosperity in business with anything like the same fundamental source of supply which she had before. To repeat what is known of all men, Montgomery before the recent war existed in business on the few politicians who visited her and a large volume of negro tenants. Twenty-five thousand of the latter are gone, prices are off about 30 per cent. from a year ago, and even the politicians have much less money to spend than formerly. It is perfectly clear that unless the number of customers are replaced or the volume of purchasing power is increased Montgomery must suffer a loss of business and finally of citizens.

F. W. GIST.

PASS CHRISTIAN MISS BEACON
OCTOBER 9, 1920

## Not a Matter of Worry

**The reported decrease in the Mississippi population is not a matter for any one to worry over, since the cause of such decrease is directly traceable to the exodus of negroes to the northern states, attracted there to by the high wages offered during the war time, and by the enjoyment of certain environments that do not exist for them in the south. While there were many negroes leaving Mississippi the per centage among them of good ones was comparatively small. The vast majority was of the restless, roving dissatisfied element, who do not make desirable citizens as do the home-owning, industrious negro men and women, who help to build up the communities in which they live and become producers of wealth. Many of those who have left are but gladly missed. The good ones who have gone will become good citizens in the communities in which they locate. Their places here will soon be filled by white persons, and it may be best for the white and the colored races that the latter become more generally distributed over the Union than the congestion of so many in the South alone. There will always be a larger per centage of negroes in the South than any other section of the Union as the conditions here are peculiarly suited to their welfare, and we can afford to lose a few thousand and still prosper.**

FORT MYERS FLA PRESS
SEPTEMBER 9, 1920

# TWO FLORIDA COUNTIES MAKE FINE SHOWING IN CENSUS STATISTICS

**REPORTS MADE BY CENSUS BUREAU ON FARMS OF POLK AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES**

**Special bulletins to The Fort Myers Press from the office of Sam L. Rogers, director of the census, give preliminary figures of the agricultural census of Polk and Osceola counties, Florida.**

The statistics, subject to correction or amendment, are as follows:

### Polk County

Farms, 2,552; operated by white farmers, 2,508; by negro farmers, 44; by owners and managers, 2,390; by tenants, 162; total acres in farms 299,153; acres improved, 54,675.

Value of land and buildings April 15, 1910, $5,159,037; value of land and buildings January 1, 1920, $36,954,363. Increase, $31,795,326; per cent of increase, 616.3.

Domestic animals reported on farms—Horses, 1,341; mules, 866; cattle, 33,844; sheep, 314; swine, 19,197. Farms reporting domestic animals, 1,322.

Principal crops—Corn, acres harvested, 7,811; quantity harvested, 113,147 bushels; hay, acres harvested, 2,705; quantity harvested, 2,223 tons; oranges, 556,487 trees, 1,009,517 boxes; grapefruit, 323,620 trees, 668,026 boxes.

### Osceola County

Farms, 304; operated by white farmers, 292; by negro farmers, 12; by owners and managers, 295; by tenants 9; total acres in farms, 66,918; acres improved, 6,304. Value of land and buildings, $2,570,005.

Domestic animals reported on farms—Horses, 636; mules, 87; cattle, 24,134; sheep, 1,488; swine, 5,811. Farms reporting domestic animals, 276.

Principal crops—Corn, acres harvested, 1,292; quantity harvested, 17,615 bushels; oranges, 51,533 trees, 125,059 boxes; grapefruit 11,590 trees, 25,619 boxes.

Comparative figures for the 1910 and 1920 censuses cannot be given for Osceola county because of the changes in county boundaries since 1910.

# 1,732,692 CHICAGOANS FREE BORN AMERICANS

CHICAGO ILL NEWS
JUNE 15, 1920

## Census Figures Show Vast Majority of Citizens Are Natives of U. S.

Analysis of the Chicago census figures, announced Saturday as 2,701,212, discloses a number of interesting facts and features reflecting the composite character of our population and indicating the sources from which it is derived. An overwhelming proportion of the city's present population is native born, there being 1,732,692 free born Americans in the lot and every state in the union has contributed an ever increasing number.

A fact surprising to Chicagoans familiar with the studied sense of superiority cultivated by New Yorkers is the fact that the Empire state has sent more of her natives to settle in Chicago than any other commonwealth in the union. There are 63,064 native New Yorkers now resident in Chicago and 1,257,624 born and bred Illinoisans, while Ohio runs second to New York with 50,223 presidential probabilities and their kin.

**Nevada Sends Smallest Number.**

Wisconsin runs Ohio a good third with 49,025 and Michigan fourth with 38,864 busy boosters. The smallest number of settlers from other states is credited to Nevada, which is now represented by 119 citizens of the Sierras. There are also 2,300 born abroad.

Despite prohibition, reform and the strength of the suffrage movement locally, Chicago is still "this man's town" as proof of which the census figures show 1,391,444 males against 1,309,768 females.

Racially the Chicago situation has changed slightly since the census of 1910 when there were 44,103 negroes here and 2,123 representatives of other races exclusives of whites. To-day there are 54,687 colored citizens and 2,632 of miscellaneous races. Foreign-born citizens and those of alien parentage are in the great majority, there being 968,709 of the former and 1,120,003 of the latter among the white residents of Chicago as against 550,181 native born.

**That "Sixth German City" Claim.**

Supporting a certain public official's celebrated characterization of Chicago as "the sixth German city" are the census figures which indicate that 226,028 Chicagoans trace their nativity to Deutschland erstwhile "ueber Alles." There are 163,753 Austrians and their descendants, 151,014 Russians and 34,583 Britons as against 81,794 Irish, 78,193 Swedes, 57,249 Italians, 35,883 Hungarians and 29,990 Norwegians. Canada has contributed upward of 37,000 Chicagoans and Scotland 12,775 canny citizens, while Holland is surprisingly well represented by 11,943 Dutch and Dutch-esses.

Altogether there are more than a score of nationalities represented in the census figures for Chicago and probably as many more racial sub-classifications. The males of voting age in the city number 868,731 and the children of school age 736,674 with 99,089 illiterates over 10. Also there are—or should be—586,694 home fires burning hereabouts for there are that many families in the city.

## URBAN POPULATION SHOWS GREAT GROWTH

Washington, August 31.—More than one-fifth of the population of the country is located in thirty-three leading cities having 200,000 or more inhabitants. A table showing these cities in order of their rank for 1920, issued today by the census bureau placed their combined population at 22,724,565, which is slightly more than one-fifth the total population of the country as estimated by Dr. Joseph A. Hill, chief statistician of the bureau, at 105,000,000.

BALTIMORE MD MORNING SU
NOVEMBER 7, 1920

# Negro Farmers

FARM tenancy instead of ownership is on the increase to an alarming degree in certain sections of the South. In Mississippi 66.1 per cent. of the farmers of the State are tenants, instead of owners; in Georgia 65.6 per cent. In South Carolina the percentage is 63.

According to the monthly bulletin of the University of South Carolina, 68.7 per cent. of the land in that State is now lying idle. Land owners in that State operate a greater percentage of all farm lands than do tenants, but the tenants operate a greater percentage of the improved lands than do owners.

Some of the conclusions reached in the South Carolina bulletin are:

"Over twice as many of the tenant farms of the State are operated by negroes as are operated by whites.

"Negro owners operate a little over one-tenth of all the farms in the State and slightly less than one-third of all the farms operated by owners.

"Farm mortgages have been steadily increasing in South Carolina, having trebled in 20 years."

FAYETTEVILLE TENN OBSER
AUGUST 19, 1920

## Population of Tennessee Over Twenty-one Years of Age

White women, 419,646. Colored women, 122,707. Therefore, there are 296,939 more white women in Tennessee than colored, or more than three times as many white as colored women.

White women, 419,646. Colored men and women, 241,849. Therefore, there are 177,797 more white women in Tennessee than colored men and women together.